

Message Text

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AMCONSUL OPORTO

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REFS: (A) LISBON 1918; (B) LISBON 1951; (C) LISBON 1984

1. SOARES STRESSES PS PROGRAM THEMES:

SOCIALIST (PS) SECY-GENERAL MARIO SOARES' CAMPAIGN SPEECH

APRIL 7 IN AVEIRO STRESSED THEMES DEVELOPED IN PARTY'S

RECENTLY ISSUED PROGRAM (REF A). CONDEMNING VIOLENCE AND

PUBLIC DISORDER, RANGING FROM PHYSICAL ATTACKS ON LEGALLY

CONSTITUTED PARTIES TO OCCUPATIONS OF PRIVATE HOMES TO THE

BURNING OF BOOKS, SOARES WARNED THAT "THE SEEDS LEFT BY FASCISM

...HAVE BORNE FRUIT." DISDAINFUL REFERENCES TO "BOURGEOIS

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SOCIALISM," EMPLOYING THE ARGUMENTS OF A SALAZAR OR CAETANO,

IS PROPAGANDA FOR ONE-PARTY DICTATORSHIP. SOARES WARNED AGAINST SUBSTITUTING BOGEYMAN OF "MONOPOLISM" FOR THAT OF "ESTADO NOVA." WITH THE GREAT EXPLOITING FAMILIES BROKEN UP BY FLIGHT OR IMPRISONMENT, PORTUGAL MUST TURN ITS ATTENTION TO BUILDING FREER, MORE HUMANE SOCIETY. THE PS HAS ROLE, WHICH NO OTHER PARTY CAN PLAY, AS AN ESSENTIAL SUPPORT TO THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) IN BUILDING NEW SOCIETY.

2. AOC, PCP (M-L) SUPPORT PS:

"FAR LEFT" WORKER-PEASANT ALLIANCE (AOC) AND MARXIST-LENINIST COMMUNISTS (PCP M-L) HAVE CALLED ONCE AGAIN ON PARTY'S SUPPORTERS TO VOTE FOR MARIO SOARES' SOCIALISTS. BANNED FROM THE ELECTIONS, THE AOC HAD PREVIOUSLY MADE NO BONES ABOUT ITS WILLINGNESS TO WORK WITH PS AGAINST COMMON ENEMY, THE PCP. AOC CALLED PS ONLY PARTY TO DEFEND DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES AND CONDEMNED AMERICAN AND SOVIET IMPERIALISM.

3. PPD -- INNOCENCE LOST, REALITIES FACED:

AT MAJOR CAMPAIGN RALLY IN LISBON, PPD LEADER PINTO BALSEMAO WARNED COMPATRIOTS TO WASTENO TIME LAMENTING LOST DREAM OF APRIL-MAY 1974 FOR WESTERN STYLE, "FORMAL" DEMOCRACY. SUCH A DEMOCRACY IS NOT VIABLE IN EITHER SHORT OR MEDIUM RUN. THE REASON FOR THIS, SIMPLY PUT, IS THAT WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF THOSE WHO HOLD POWER (READ AFM) TO MAKE A REVOLUTION THERE CAN BE NO REVOLUTION. PORTUGUESE MUST SET GOALS WITHIN CONTEXT OF "THAT WHICH IS, NOT THAT WHICH OUGHT TO BE." FOUR BASIC QUESTIONS MUST BE RESOLVED: CRISIS OF AUTHORITY, SAFEGUARDING OF LIBERTIES ALREADY ACQUIRED (NO ARRESTS WITHOUT CHARGE, LAWYERS SHOULD BE PRESENT DURING INTERROGATION, PRESS SHOULD NOT EXERCISE SELF-CENSORSHIP, FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION SHOULD BE LIMITED NEITHER FORMALLY NOR BY FEAR), ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES (ECONOMIC STRUCTURES WILL BE CHANGED ONLY ONCE MEANS OF PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION HAVE BEEN DEMOCRATICALLY CONQUERED), AND NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE. IN REGARD TO LATTER, BALSEMAO SAID THAT "THIRD WORLDISM" IS REALISTIC MEANS (WITHOUT RENOUNCING IMPORTANCE OF PORTUGAL'S GEOPOLITICAL EUROPEANNESS) FOR COUNTRY TO DISENTANGLE ITSELF FROM AMERICAN AND SOVIET IMPERIALISM. "WE ARE ONE OF THE FEW PARTIES UNCOMPROMISED BY (TIES TO) ANY OF THE SUPER-POWERS."

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4. MORE PRESSURE ON THE PPD:

AT SAME TIME THAT PPD RALLIES ARE HARASSED AND PPD OFFICES STONED, THE PCP AND FAR LEFT GROUPS ARE KEEPING UP CAMPAIGN OF VERBAL VILLIFICATION. PCP HAS RENEWED CHARGES THAT PPD IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HARASSMENT OCCURRING AT SOME OF ITS MEETINGS. (COMMENT: WHILE PCP MAY BE EXAGGERATING SUCH INCIDENTS AND EXPLOITING THEM FOR OWN PURPOSES, PPD MILITANTS AT TIMES HAVE SOUGHT TO AVENGE, TIT-FOR-TAT, PROVOCATIONS TO WHICH PARTY HAS

BEEN SUBJECTED. IN SOME CASES YOUNG PPD ENTHUSIASTS HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY INITIATED VIOLENCE.) AT MAJOR RALLY ON APRIL 7 FAR LEFT INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST LEAGUE (LCI) CALLED FOR EXPELLING PPD FROM PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT, CONDEMNING PCP FOR MERELY POSING OBJECTIONS TO PPD'S INCLUSION.

5. PCP -- YES, BUT:

RENEWING THEME THAT PCP IS NOT AFRAID OF ELECTIONS, ONLY THAT ELECTIONS MAY NOT BE COMPLETELY FREE (REF B), PCP SPEAKER AT APRIL 7 RALLY ASKED: "CAN ELECTIONS REALLY BE FREE IN AREAS WHERE DEMOCRATIC FORCES LIKE THE PCP CANNOT MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD, CANNOT CARRY OUT (PROGRAMS OF) POPULAR ENLIGHTENMENT, WHERE THE SIMPLE FACT OF BEING A COMMUNIST REPRESENTS A STANDING THREAT TO ONE'S PHYSICAL SECURITY?"

6. MES -- FELLOW OR PARALLEL TRAVELER?

ONE MORE INSTANCE HAS CROPPED UP OF DIVERSION BETWEEN LINES FOLLOWED BY PCP AND SMALLER, MORE RADICAL LEFT SOCIALIST MOVEMENT (MES). WHILE PCP HAS QUICKLY ACCEPTED AFM'S PLATFORM OF UNDERSTANDING, MES HAS JOINED FOUR FAR LEFT PARTIES CONTESTING ELECTION (REF C) IN REJECTING IT. MES REAFFIRMED ITS SUPPORT FOR AFM, STATING THAT ALLIANCE OF PROGRESSIVE FORCES IN AFM WITH THE WORKERS IS ESSENTIAL FOR ADVANCING THE REVOLUTION. HOWEVER, AFM CAN NEVER SUBSTITUTE ROLE PLAYED BY THE POPULAR MASSES.

7. ELECTION MECHANICS:

MINISTRY OF INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION HAS REITERATED THAT LOCAL ELECTION BOARDS WILL BE FILLED BY "ADMINISTRATIVE" MEANS IF POLITICAL PARTIES DO NOT SUCCEED IN NOMINATING LOCALLY REGISTERED VOTERS FOR TASK (REF C). PARTIES HAVE UNTIL APRIL 13 TO SUBMIT NAMES, BUT OST ARE NOT EXPECTED TO BE ABLE TO MEET EVEN THIS EXTENDED DEADLINE. (MINISTRY OFFICIAL STATES THAT NEARLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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70,000 PERSONS ARE REQUIRED TO FILL ALL LOCAL ELECTION BOARD SLOTS.) PPD HAS DENOUNCED "OPPORTUNISTIC MANEUVERS" OF UNSPECIFIED POLITICAL FORCES IN RESPONDING TO THIS PROBLEM. PPD COMMUNIQUE STATED THAT DRAWING OF LOTS TO FILL SLOTS WOULD FAVOR INTERESTS OF "PARTIES WITH SATELLITES." (COMMENT: REFERENCE IS TO PCP AND FELLOW TRAVELING MDP/CDE, MES, AND FSP.)
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